In order to arrest the decline in prices of chillies, the Government conducts market intervention operations on the specific request of State Governments with a view to saving the farmers from distress sales.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture has a comprehansive scheme for studying the cost of cultivation of principal crops under which 27 crops are covered at present. Chillies however, is not covered within this scheme. As such the average cost of production of chillies is not available.

(c) The information on average yield and average domestic prices of chillies is given in the tables in part (a) of the Question.

Regarding steps taken to encourage chillies growers, a Central Sector Scheme for Integrated Development of Spices is being implemented for increasing the production and productivity of spices including chillies. The following programmes are taken up for the development of chillies under this scheme :—

(i) Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots.

(ii) Demonstration of plant protection measures ; and

(iii) Distribution of plant protection equipments.

Re-organisation of crops/commodity Directorate

691. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date and the composition of the committee formulated for studying reoganisation of crops/commodity directorate;

(b) the extent of expenditure incurred so far since its inception;

(c) what are its recommendations and steps taken by Government to implement them; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-implementation of recommendation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) No Standing Committee has been studying re-organisation of the Crops/Commodity Development Directorates. There fore, the question of the Committee's recommendations and implementation thereof or incurring any expenditure on such a Committee does not arise. However, a small departmental working group was constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Special Secretary to work out proposals on re-organisation of the Directorates and no final decision has yet been arrived at on re-organisation proposal.

Special Plans for drought prone areas of Bihar

692. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any Special Plans for the drought prone areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to launch the special plan in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is being implemented in 54 blocks of 5 districts in Bihar. No Special Plans for drought prone areas of Bihar have been prepared.